MEDLINE Journal Selection
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MEDLINE

- NLM journal citation database
- Primary component of PubMed
  - MEDLINE, PubMed, and PMC (PubMed Central): How are they different?
- Provides over 22 million citations to biomedical and life sciences journal articles
- Includes over 5,600 scholarly journals published worldwide
- Articles are indexed with MeSH (Medical Subject Headings controlled vocabulary)
MEDLINE Journal Selection

- Publisher/editor submits MEDLINE application
- Journals reviewed by Literature Selection Technical Review Committee (LSTRC):
  - NIH-chartered advisory committee
  - 15 Members – across USA, diverse subject expertise
  - Meet 3 times per year, at NLM
  - Examine ~140 Journals per meeting
  - Recommend journals for MEDLINE
    - Scores range 0-5. For MEDLINE inclusion 3.75 or greater
    - ~12% of journals get recommended

Critical elements:

- Scope and coverage for NLM collection
  - Biomedical, life sciences, geographic representation, regional significance
- Type of content
  - Original research, reviews, case reports, etc.
- Scientific quality
- Editorial quality
- Publishing practices
  - Best practices outlined by ICMJE (International Committee of Medical Editors), COPE (Committee on Publication Ethics), CSE (Council of Scientific Editors)
MEDLINE Journal Selection

The LSTRC assessment of journals is based on several critical elements that serve as a general guide for recommending a journal title to be indexed in MEDLINE. There is no one element by itself that tends to disqualify a journal from being recommended. The overall appraisal of a journal’s scientific content, quality, importance, editorial policies, and subject coverage in MEDLINE determine the LSTRC scoring and recommendation.

MEDLINE Application

• Expectations:
  • Separate ISSNs for print and electronic versions
  • English abstracts for Non-English journals
  • 40+ Articles for new journals
  • Citable articles (pagination, DOIs)
  • XML-tagged data (citations and abstracts)
  • Full access to electronic content
  • Follow current best publishing practices
  • Provide all information requested on application
Best Publishing Practices

- NLM supports the publishing practices outlined by:
  - Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE)
  - International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE)
  - Council of Scientific Editors (CSE)
  - World Association of Medical Editors (WAME)
  - National Information Standards Organization (NISO), in particular Recommended Practices for the Presentation and Identification of E-Journals (PIE-J)

Electronic-only Journals

- E-only journals (no print version) must:
  - Provide XML-tagged citation data
  - Provide access to all content under a license that allows efficient support of NLM operations (username and password not acceptable)
  - Have an acceptable arrangement for permanent preservation of, and access to, the content
    - PMC
    - Portico or CLOCKSS
      (repositories certified by Center for Research Libraries)

Re-reviews

- If journal was not recommended:
  - Request a summary of the review
  - Re-apply
    - 2 years after first review
    - 3 years after second or third review

MEDLINE Review Application

Contact LSTRCinfo@mail.nlm.nih.gov

Questions

National Library of Medicine
The world’s largest biomedical library
https://www.nlm.nih.gov/